

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.
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THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

Sign No Papers.

Just now when there is much money in the hands of farmers adroit agents will be on the road. They will have the best and only clocks, sewing machines, steel ranges, improved churns and other useful articles, all of which can be bought at home. The writer saw two negroes a few days ago who had just finished the last installment on \$60 sewing machines which could have been bought for \$20 or less. These agents make an ignorant man feel that the last chance has come to secure the article they have for sale and then by giving two or three years' time they deceive the purchaser completely. They have chattel mortgages which are iron-clad, and once signed there is no way of evading payment. Those agents generally demand the cost of the article the first payment. Never sign any papers of that sort. The prices asked by these agents is generally three times as much as your local dealer will ask. Those mortgages printed in such small type that the ordinary farmer cannot read them, are adngerous and deceptive.

Wheat Sowing.

Nearly every day some farmer comes to the writer for information about sowing wheat. Yesterday one said: "I wish to sow a lot in wheat. Will it do to cover it with a cutaway harrow? Is that as good a plan as putting in with a drill?" Although The Progressive Farmer has given this information time and again, it has to be repeated every year. We said to him that thorough preparation was the main thing. If his land was well pulverized, and the hard pan broken, it made no difference how it was put in, so the seed were not left on top of the ground or buried three to six inches deep. The man who sowed only a few acres could not afford to buy a drill. It was often difficult to hire one. It takes a little more time to scatter fertilizer by hand, sow the seed by hand and cover with a harrow. Some of the seed will be wasted that way, but enough will generally come up. When the drill is used the fertilizer is under the wheat. That is no special advantage. The grains are covered to a uniform depth. That is an advantage. But the hand-sowed wheat will yield as much as that covered with a drill.

Fall Gardening.

In all this Piedmont region of the Carolinas, the garden should receive special attention before winter sets in. Onion sets, spinach and lettuce should be planted. If one has lettuce plants they might be set out in a cold frame about eight

inches apart and protected in cold weather. Fine heads may be expected in December and January. Spinach is very hardy. Plant in rows now and protect with light, loose scrapings from the lot. It will come in ready for the table very early in the spring. Lettuce will live in the open garden during the winter and will be large enough to transplant in February. Sow cabbage seed now in the open ground and protect with brush; or better sow in a cold frame and harden them by degrees. Some gardeners have success when they plant Irish potatoes in December if they have friable soil that will not bake after heavy rains. They cover six or seven inches deep and knock off part of the dirt just before they come up.

CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

Sample Boll Weevils Free to Applicants.

Mr. Franklin Sherman, Jr., Entomologist of the State Department of Agriculture at Raleigh, has received several hundred dead specimens of the cotton boll weevil from Texas. These were sent by experts of the National government in Texas and are being placed in small glass vials with cotton batting, for distribution among the cotton farmers in North Carolina. Although the boll weevil is not yet in this State it is almost certain, Mr. Sherman thinks, to reach us in time, though it will probably be several years yet. By securing these dead specimens from Mr. Sherman our farmers may familiarize themselves with the pest in advance. Persons desiring to secure specimens should write to Mr. Sherman at Raleigh enclosing four cents in stamps (not stuck to the paper), to pay for postage, packing, etc. Two specimens of the weevil will be sent to each applicant.

Curing Pea Hay in Mecklenburg.

Mr. Editor:—Since the arrival of crisp November weather, farm work has undergone a change in our county. During September and October making hay and picking cotton had the right-of-way, but since the recent frosts and rains, gathering corn and sowing wheat is the leading work on our farms. One of my neighbors finished sowing wheat yesterday; but the most of us are just beginning to sow. There will be a large acreage seeded to wheat, as flour is high, and the crop was fairly good this year. Only a small acreage was sown to oats, owing to the dry weather during September and October.

We have harvested the largest crop of pea-vine hay ever made in our county; and, by the way, our farmers cure pea hay like they cure other hay, only it takes a little more time. You do not see stakes driven in the ground in the hay fields to pile the vines around, nor rail pens in which to place them, but after sunning one to two days the vines are raked and piled at once, and after remaining in piles three or four, are hauled to barn or stack. I harvested about eighty tons of pea hay this season, and it was hauled from five to seven days, from time of cutting, and I have never seen nicer hay.

Our farmers are gathering a large crop of corn, which makes us feel more independent than we did last year when our crop of corn was short. We have made much larger crops of cotton, but as prices are fairly good, we are not complaining about empty purses.

I have on hand a barrel of air slaked lime and a bottle of formalin which I expect to use on my seed wheat to prevent smut.

JOHN McDOWELL.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Farm Notes from Chatham County.

Messrs. Editors:—As its raining, I will write a few notes to the best farm weekly in the South. Farmers are busy shucking corn and sowing wheat. Nearly all farmers will sow some wheat this time.

Myself and some few others cut our corn to shred. Almots all who tried it say they will never pull any more fodder. I have been cutting for four years and like it very much.

Pea-vines did well this year. A fine lot of pea-vine hay has been cured. I hauled thirteen two-horse loads of well cured hay off of one acre. This was fertilized with two hundred pounds of 16 per cent acid. I find this pays well. There will be more sowed next year for mowing purposes than ever before.

A good many sowed a patch of crimson clover this year. I am afraid the dry weather will discourage some of the weak-kneed farmers and they will give it up. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." I saw a field on Prof. H. H. Williams's farm at Chapel Hill last spring that was over knee high and as thick as it could stand. He said it was the poorest land he had in cultivation. By the way, he has some as fine English Berkshire pigs as grow in the State for \$5 each. He farms for pleasure as well as profit, and it is a pleasure to see those big Berkshires wading in lucerne eight inches high, eating to their heart's content. I sowed some lucerne this fall and expect to sow some more next spring.

Yours truly,

JAS. H. HACKNEY.

Chatham Co., N. C.

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